



TEAM News

Together Everyone Achieves More

Division of Student Support & Innovation and Office of Special Education

April 2016

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Work Begins on the New Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 10, 2015. It reauthorizes the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was previously reauthorized as No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

The new law officially takes effect on July 1, 2017. The 2016-2017 school year is being referenced as a transition year.

Under ESSA, each state educational agency must create a consolidated State Plan to outline how the state intends to implement the new law. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) will submit its state ESSA plan to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) in January 2017.

Superintendent Kirsten Baesler has formed an ESSA Planning Committee to assist in developing North Dakota's State Plan. The committee members, representing a multitude of stakeholder groups, were each sent a letter inviting their participation on the committee.

The state ESSA Planning Committee will convene to prepare the state's application for a comprehensive plan. The first committee meeting will be held on May 17, 2016, at the State Capitol. The [ESSA Planning Committee member list](#) will soon be available on the NDDPI website.

The ESSA law brings a new opportunity for states, districts, and schools for increased flexibility to promote innovation. Together, all stakeholders can provide input and generate a plan that encompasses the components North Dakotans value and support.

Estimated Federal Title Allocations

On April 18, 2016, Jamie Mertz, Fiscal Management Director, released an email notification to school district personnel to outline the estimated Title I and Title II allocations for the 2016-2017 school year. The [estimated federal Title program allocations](#) have been calculated and posted on the NDDPI website. Please note that these are only estimated amounts and, generally, the final allocations vary some from these estimates.

These estimated allocations show a nice increase (approximately 8%) in Title I funding compared to the previous school year allocations. This amounts to a \$2,636,347 increase in federal funding statewide for Title I. However, due to some of the Hold Harmless levels in the past, not all districts received increases in their funding. The Title II Part A allocation decreased by just less than 2% (\$199,736) so these allocations should have calculated slightly less than last year's amounts.

Once we have pre-populated the estimated allocations into the Consolidated Application for Federal Title Programs and opened up the consolidated application report on STARS, district administration will be notified. When the final allocations are sent out to state agencies, the NDDPI will perform the calculations and send email notifications to school districts with their final federal Title allocation amounts. This email will also include the approved indirect cost percentage for each school district for the 2016-2017 school year.

If you have any questions on allocations, please communicate with your Division of Student Support & Innovation [contact person](#) or email [Stefanie Two Crow](#) or call (701) 328-2287.

North Dakota Center for Distance Education Recognized as One of the Nation's Best Online High Schools

Congratulations to the North Dakota Center for Distance Education (NDCDE), which was recently recognized as one of the nation's best online high schools for 2016. The Best College Reviews recently reviewed 100 online programs and identified the best online high schools based on affordability, academic offerings, and support services.



NDCDE has been providing educational opportunities to residents of North Dakota as well as residents outside the state's boundaries since 1935. The NDDPI congratulates the NDCDE, under the direction of Dr. Alan Peterson, for the opportunities provided to North Dakota students.

The entire review can be found online at www.bestcollegereviews.org/top/online-high-schools.

Program Improvement Updates

In March 2016, the NDDPI held two webinars to outline a new opportunity available to North Dakota schools and districts regarding the 2015-2016 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reporting and the ramifications for program improvement based on the 2016 North Dakota State Assessment.

We asked administrators to take a brief survey and indicate their choice for moving forward on this issue. The NDDPI compiled the survey results and announced that it will move forward with option 2, as it was a landslide decision (99%). This option includes that NDDPI does not generate AYP reports for schools and districts based on the 2016 North Dakota State Assessment and freezes program improvement for the 2016-2017 school year.

In April, some key updates were provided at the ESSA Regional Workshops; the [handouts from the ESSA workshops](#) are posted on our website. The [program improvement key updates](#) include the overview of program improvement, information regarding addendums, additional funds application, and key reminders.

The following chart outlines the program improvement overview for the 2016-2017 school year.

2016-2017 Program Improvement and AYP Freeze
2015-2016 North Dakota State Assessment results will not be counted for accountability and program improvement for the 2016-2017 school year.
No AYP reports will be generated from the 2015-2016 North Dakota State Assessment.
Current schools and districts will be frozen in program improvement for the 2016-2017 school year.
No AYP parent letter will be required as no AYP reports will be generated.
Schools and districts in years 1 and 2 on the program improvement timeline must set-aside 10% for professional development.
No school choice or supplemental education services required; must document alternate services on consolidated application.
No new program improvement plans/corrective action/alternative governance documents will be due to the NDDPI; program improvement will be frozen, so the NDDPI will utilize all documents from prior years.
Additional Program Improvement Funding (SFN 60839) applications are due June 1, 2016. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SFN 60839 Word version: www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/documents/396/sfn60839.doc ◆ SFN 60839 PDF version: www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/documents/395/sfn60839.pdf ◆ Federal Title Program Forms: www.nd.gov/dpi/forms/
Applications for Additional Program Improvement Funding will be approved in June so implementation begins in July 2016.
The NDDPI must still generate report cards/profiles and notify parents.
On July 1, 2017, the ESSA law officially begins. All North Dakota schools and districts get a clean slate and start over under North Dakota's ESSA accountability plan.

End of Year Reminders

Estimated Allocations for 2016-2017

The 2016-2017 [estimated federal Title programs allocations](#) were recently disseminated and posted on the NDDPI website. Please note, these are only estimated amounts and, generally, the final allocations vary some from these estimates.

Final Federal Title Allocations

The NDDPI anticipates having the final federal Title allocation amounts posted in June. Once the final allocations have been determined, the NDDPI can pre-populate the allocations into the Consolidated Application for Federal Title Programs. The final allocation chart will also include the approved indirect cost percentage for each school district for the 2016-2017 school year.

Letter of Intent

The Office of Federal Title Programs will once again be requesting authorized representatives to complete a Letter of Intent indicating whether or not the district intends to accept Title I and/or Title II funding for the 2016-2017 school year. The past few years, several districts have elected to decline federal Title I and Title II funds, which is certainly allowable. With the decline in Title funding for many districts this year, some may not find the funding worthwhile considering the required paperwork and the program improvement requirements; however, we may see a shift in this decision for the subsequent school years. [The Letter of Intent form will be disseminated shortly and will also be made available on the department's website when it is sent out to districts.](#)

Final Financial Reports

All Title I Final Financial Report forms will be disseminated during the month of May 2016. They will be sent and personalized to match each district's unique situation. In addition to the Final Financial Report and guidance, each school district will receive the addendums specific to them, and a Request for Funds form.

- ◆ Cooperative Agreement Addendum
- ◆ Neglected Funds Addendum
- ◆ Parent Involvement Addendum
- ◆ Program Improvement Addendum
- ◆ Private School Addendum
- ◆ Reallocated Funds Addendum
- ◆ Supplemental Services Addendum

If addendums are included, please be sure to complete and submit them along with your Final Financial Report and Request for Funds. Submitting all of the required forms together will expedite the review and approval process in the Office of Federal Title Programs.

If you have any questions regarding Title I Final Financial Reports, please email Title I Fiscal Officer, [Shauna Greff](#), or call (701) 328-2958; or email [Stefanie Two Crow](#) or call (701) 328-2287.

Title II

Districts receiving Title II funding will need to submit a Final Financial Report to close out their programs. An electronic mailing will be sent to all authorized representatives and contacts in May 2016. The Title II Final Financial Report is tentatively due in the Office of Federal Title Programs by Friday, July 1, 2016. However, this report should not be submitted until districts have completed all of their activities for the 2015-2016 school year, and all invoices have been processed and paid.

End of Year Reminders, continued

The forms can be accessed at www.nd.gov/dpi/forms/ and fiscal resources for guidance is available at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/FiscalResources/.

- ◆ Request for Funds: It is imperative that you work with your business manager on the completion of the Title II Final Financial Report and other related forms. Please remember, your local accounting ledger must match the figures reported on the Final Financial Report.

If you have any questions regarding the Title II Final Financial Reports, please email the Title II Fiscal Officer, [Jane Gratz](#), or call (701) 328-2292; or email [Stefanie Two Crow](#) or call (701) 328-2287.

Supplemental Educational Services

Schools required to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) will still need to ensure the Supplemental Services Provider Annual Report (SFN 54254) is completed and submitted to the Office of Federal Title Programs as this information is required by the USDE. This form is due June 30, 2016.

ESSA Presentations and Recordings

The NDDPI hosted ESSA Regional trainings in April 2016 to provide administrators, teachers, and school staff with an overview of ESSA, a transition plan, and various other topics including updates to the consolidated application, program improvement, and state and federal initiatives. [Training handouts](#) are available online.

College-Ready Writers Program Applicants Wanted

The Red River Valley Writing Project (RRVWP) has announced they are seeking applicants for the College-Ready Writers Program: An Advanced Institute of the RRVWP. This is an advanced institute, therefore the RRVWP is looking for teachers who have been through an intensive writing project, intensive institute, and/or who work primarily with high-needs students. The program focuses on argument writing in grades 7-12, and community college instructor. The stipend is \$500 for participants who complete the program. It starts with a three-day launch in August, followed by monthly Saturday meetings (some via IVN) throughout next school year. The last two months of the program are dedicated to helping participants design professional development for their school, college, or district to share the materials with other teachers.

This is a great opportunity! More information can be found [here](#).

North Dakota Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force

The North Dakota Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force began meeting in June 2015 and was designed to address the teacher shortage in North Dakota and alliance with its educator equity plan. The purpose of the task force is to make recommendations to the State Superintendent and members of the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) about how to recruit and retain principals and teachers for North Dakota schools.

Made up of educational leaders from across North Dakota, the task force has met about once a month. The first meetings focused on the current state of educator recruitment and retention with the review of data, programs, policies, and practices related to the issue.

The task force members discussed the strategies purposed in the North Dakota educator equity plan. The North Dakota School Boards Association indicated they would undertake a marketing campaign aimed at providing the public with information about the teaching profession. Finally, members recommended a hardship waiver for districts to utilize community experts for positions that were still unfilled as the school year began.

Members considered opportunities for across-organization collaboration related to the marketing campaign. North Dakota United offered to develop a website promoting the teaching profession, and an action plan to gather more data specifically related to long-term recruitment solutions was developed.

After reviewing a plethora of data, the task force members developed a list of solutions. The North Central Comprehensive Center administered a survey to rank the solutions. The solutions proposed include:

- 1) A statewide marketing campaign promoting the teaching profession,
- 2) An expansion of the loan forgiveness and signing bonus programs in terms of visibility and ability to pay more student loans in exchange for service in a high need area (i.e., rural schools),
- 3) Compensation of student teachers,
- 4) Enhancement of school climate and culture,
- 5) The creation of the pool of 'traveling' teachers (similar to traveling nurses) to incentivize working in high need areas such as rural schools.

The survey results were reviewed and two solutions were selected to recommend to Superintendent Baesler and the ESPB. Members began preliminary action planning around the statewide marketing campaign and expansion of loan forgiveness, scholarship and signing bonuses programs, as well as increasing teachers' salaries.

The next steps for the North Dakota Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force are to bring two long-term recruitment solutions to Superintendent Baesler and the ESPB for approval and begin more detailed action plans to implement these solutions.



Updates in the Office of Teacher and School Effectiveness

Request for Emergency Declaration State Aid Eligibility

We were fortunate to have a mild North Dakota winter. However, if for some reason your school had to close for a day or start late/end early providing less than a full day of instruction due to severe weather or other emergency conditions, the school must make every effort to make up the missed instructional time. [Guidance on school closings](#) can be found online.

If the school was unable to make up the necessary time, a Request for Emergency Declaration State Aid Eligibility (SFN 51826) must be submitted by May 1. More [information on the Request for Emergency Declaration](#) can be found online.

Reminder to Submit Summer School Information

The NDDPI invites public schools to apply for funding for their state-funded summer school programs. All summer school applications must be received in the NDDPI office 15 days prior to the start of your summer school program. Schools must apply through the STARS system. More [Summer School information and a document explaining how to apply](#) can be found online.

Spring Calendars

The STARS Spring Calendar will open May 1 to allow schools to input their information for the 2015-2016 school year. The Spring Calendar report is due by June 15. More [information on the Spring Calendar](#) can be found online.

If you have any questions, feel free to email [Gwyn Marback](#) or call (701) 328-2295 or [Carol Harmsen](#) or call (701) 328-2266.

Information Regarding the Civics Test Requirement in North Dakota

On January 30, 2015, Governor Dalrymple signed into law House Bill 1087 relating to the demonstration of proficiency in Civics as a condition of North Dakota high school graduation. The intent of the bill is to ensure North Dakota students are knowledgeable citizens. They will demonstrate their knowledge by answering the 100 questions that, as of January 1, 2015, officers of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services use as the basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization.

For graduates of 2017, 60% of the questions on the Civics test must be passed to meet graduation requirements. After 2017, 70% of the questions on the Civics test must be passed to meet graduation requirements.

The NDDPI emphasizes that school districts have maximum flexibility in meeting the Civics test requirement. In order to support high school principals, teachers, counselors, and students, a [Q & A](#) has been developed to provide additional answers.

North Dakota Migrant Education Program Has Nation's Top Student



State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said a summer migrant education program in northeastern North Dakota has the nation's top student for the second straight year.

Jose Paz Pruneda Jr., who turns 18 this month, is graduating from high school in May. He was recently named as the 2016 National PASS Student of the Year.

PASS stands for Portable Assisted Study Sequence. It is an instructional program designed for students whose families travel during the school year for agricultural work. It is used by North Dakota migrant farm worker children, who often move south for the winter in October and return in late March or early April.

North Dakota's only summer migrant programs are operated at Grafton and Manvel. Migrant students attend classes at the two schools during June and July. The 2015 National PASS Student of the Year, Juan Alberto Benavides, and the 2010 honoree, Rubi Gonzales, also took instruction at Manvel, said Sandy Peterson, program administrator for migrant education at the NDDPI.

"Pruneda, who is Mexican, is fluent in spoken and written English", said Mary Sorvig, the principal of Manvel Elementary School. She and Richard Ray, Manvel's superintendent, are co-directors of the school's migrant instruction program. Pruneda attends Warren-Alvarado-Oslo High School in Warren, MN, during the spring and fall months. During the rest of the school year, he lives in San Andres, Mexico, and attends the Cecyte Los Ramones School in Nuevo Leon. Pruneda is returning to Minnesota from Mexico this month and is on track to graduate from the Warren High School in May. His parents, Jose Pruneda Sr. and Maria Pruneda, have migrated to the Red River Valley for a number of years to work for farmers in the region.

"Jose Pruneda Jr. was chosen as the 2016 Student of the Year from among thousands of migrant students nationwide. The distinction will help Pruneda get college scholarship aid", Sorvig said. "This will open up doors for him. It is like having an award for hard work," she said. "We just have a very small number of the migrant population in North Dakota," Sorvig said. "To have an award like this, especially two years in a row, is an indication of the excellent education opportunities provided by our schools and state. It also speaks to the caliber of students who migrate here to North Dakota."

Sorvig said the PASS instructional program is designed to allow students to earn high school credits while learning and taking tests at their own pace. Once a student successfully completes a course, he or she moves on to the next course. At Manvel, students taking the courses are supervised by a teacher but work semi-independently. Sorvig and Sandy Fetsch are Manvel's PASS program teachers.

"During the summer of 2015", Peterson said, "Grafton's PASS program had 13 students attend, of whom seven completed 10 courses for high school credit. Twenty-one students were PASS students at Manvel, with 19 finishing 25 courses for high school credit". Sorvig said she expects similar enrollment numbers this summer.

North Dakota Migrant Education Program Has Nation's Top Student, continued

The 2015 National PASS Student of the Year, Juan Alberto Benavides, is the son of Juan A. and Aracely Benavides. The family lives in Rio Grande City, Texas, and they migrate to Minto for the spring and summer. Aracely Benavides works as a bilingual teacher's aide at the Manvel school during the summer months, and her husband works for a Grafton farmer.

Rubi Gonzales, the 2010 honoree, attended the Midway Public School at Inkster and summer school at Manvel. She went on to earn a college degree, and now works as a human resource professional in McAllen, Texas. Gonzales intends to pursue a master's degree in the near future, Sorvig said.

The PASS program was established in 1978 to help provide instruction for migrant farm worker students in California. It offers courses in English, algebra, geometry, biology, world geography and history, environmental science and other subjects. Thirty states offer PASS programs, according to the National PASS Center, based in Leicester, NY, which develops and coordinates course work and offers instructional materials and training.

NDDPI Office of Special Education Awarded Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Grant

North Dakota is one of three states to be awarded an interagency grant from the National Technical Assistance Center for Transition (NTACT). The grant provides technical assistance to bring together the NDDPI, local school districts, DHS/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, DHS/Division of Behavioral Health, parent organizations, and local providers to address several transition issues of rural communities. Technical assistance will be aligned to the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) which focuses on improved instruction and supports for students with behavioral, social/emotional, social communication, and mental health needs. It will assist these agencies to implement evidence-based and promising practices that improve the engagement of students in transition and work-based learning opportunities. Improving engagement will increase the success of transitioning students to continue their education and training in post-secondary programs or to immediately gain and sustain competitive integrated employment.

Members of North Dakota's grant leadership team include:

- ♦ Gerry Teevens—Special Education Director, NDDPI
- ♦ Barbara Burghart—State Rehabilitation Services, DHS/VR
- ♦ Stacie Dailey—State Behavioral Health Services, DHS/Behavioral Health
- ♦ Tammy Mayer—Regional Coordinator, NDDPI
- ♦ Susan Gerenz—Regional Coordinator, NDDPI
- ♦ Kevin McDonough—Regional Coordinator, NDDPI
- ♦ Karen Nickels—Assistant Director, West Fargo School District
- ♦ Laurie Skadsem—Community Integration Services Coordinator, Anne Carlsen Center
- ♦ Kirsten Dvorak—Parent, Pathfinders

The technical assistance partners from the NTACT were in the state April 21-22, 2016, for a planning session with the North Dakota Leadership Team.

Superintendent Baesler Visits Schools

On March 22, 2016, Superintendent Baesler visited two schools—Cannon Ball Elementary School (Solen School District) and Standing Rock Community High School (Fort Yates School District)—on the Standing Rock Reservation.

Cannon Ball Elementary School

Superintendent Baesler was invited to participate in the Apple Award presentation at Cannon Ball Elementary School. While there, the students of Cannon Ball Elementary presented her with a flag they had made.



Standing Rock High School

Superintendent Baesler was invited to speak to the students of Standing Rock High School during a formal presentation, where she was presented with a beautiful star quilt. Superintendent Baesler also had the opportunity to spend time visiting with students in an informal setting to get their thoughts and ideas on education.



Indian Education Summit Registration Information

The NDDPI Office of Indian/Multicultural Education and the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission announces the **3rd Annual North Dakota Indian Education Summit (NDIES)**. **This two-day summit** will be held in **Bismarck, ND on July 12-13, 2016**, in the Brynhild Haugland Room at the North Dakota State Capitol. The NDIES is open to all educators and designed to provide professional development and best practices in Indian Education.

[Registration and agenda information is now available online](#). The registration fee is \$140 for attendees and \$100 for vendors. This is a limited participation event. No on-site registration will be accepted. A confirmation email will be sent after your payment is received. You are not fully registered until we receive payment and you have received confirmation via email. The registration fee covers the full two days; one-day rates are not available. All resource materials, breakfast, lunch, and snacks are included with the registration.

Lodging

Participants are responsible for arranging their own lodging accommodations. Please call the Comfort Inn at (701) 223-1911 to make reservations. A block of rooms has been reserved under the name of North Dakota Indian Education Summit for the state rate of \$84.10 plus tax.

Credit

The NDIES is offering [one graduate continuing education credit](#) through the University of Mary for a fee of \$45. The deadline to register for credit is July 25, 2016.



Cancellation Policy/Late Registrants

We understand circumstances may prevent you from attending this summit after submitting your registration and/or payment. Submitting the online registration signifies you are registered for the summit and you will be attending, regardless of whether or not payment has been made. If your plans change or if you will no longer be attending, please notify [Jill Frohlich](#) at (701) 328-2254.

All cancellations and refund requests must be made by email to [Jill Frohlich](#) no later than **4:30 pm on Friday, June 24, 2016**. If this deadline is not met, the registration fee is **non-refundable** as the NDDPI is charged for all confirmed meals and resource materials.

If you have any questions regarding the summit, please email [Lucy Fredericks](#) or call (701) 328-1718, or email [Scott Davis](#) or call (701) 328-2428. If you have any questions regarding registration or if you have special needs that require a specific accommodation while attending the summit, please email [Jill Frohlich](#) or call (701) 328-2254.

Office of Academic Support Updates

Here are a few highlights of initiatives happening within the Office of Academic Support:

North Dakota Education...Watch Us Grow – Building principals have received notifications from Measurement Inc., our contractor for the statewide evaluation of the North Dakota State Standards in English language arts and mathematics. The survey response deadline was extended until Wednesday, April 27. This project, *North Dakota Education...Watch Us Grow*, will be a data element as the state moves forward in reviewing its English language arts and mathematics standards.

Dual Credit – On April 7, 2016, the NDDPI and North Dakota University System (NDUS) released a [joint memo](#) providing clarification on North Dakota's intent to apply for a statewide extension for dual-credit faculty credentials. If NDUS's application is approved by the [Higher Learning Commission](#) (HLC), an extension of up to September 2022 could be granted. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Exam Fees – Students participating in AP exams during spring 2016 have the opportunity to have some or all AP testing fees waived for English, mathematics, science, and computer science exams. Every student gets the first exam free. Students who qualify as economically disadvantaged may take up to four (4) AP exams in those subjects without charge during their high school careers. All other students get a 50% discount on the second, third and fourth exams in English, mathematics, science, or computer science during their high school careers. If a student has already signed up and paid a fee, they will be eligible for a refund from their school. [Additional AP information can be found online.](#)

Webinar – On April 8, 2016, the NDDPI and CollegeBoard hosted a webinar to assist AP coordinators in navigating this exam registration and invoicing process. [The webinar recording can be found online.](#)

AP Summer Institutes – In order to increase student access to AP courses for the 2016-2017 school year, more North Dakota teachers need to receive professional development for facilitating AP courses. In early April, the department released an [application for teachers \(in conjunction with their school/district\) to seek funding to assist with the costs of becoming trained in AP courses](#) including English, mathematics, science, and computer science. These applications are due June 1, 2016, and will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Early Childhood – The department successfully completed its second annual North Dakota Early Childhood Education Conference. Thanks to all the educators that participated and shared their expertise. [For those unable to attend, conference materials can be found online.](#)

NMSI in North Dakota – The [Laying the Foundation \(LTF\) Summer Institute](#) is scheduled for July 12-15, 2016, in Minot. Schools and districts are reminded that there is NO REGISTRATION FEE for this conference when using the PROMO CODE: **NDLTF2016**. All North Dakota educators are encouraged to attend.

NMSI has been working with several school districts regarding the implementation of their College Readiness Program (CRP). Districts selected to participate during the 2015-2016 school year were recently notified.

Office of Academic Support Updates, continued

Math Leadership Project – The North Dakota Math Leadership Team has finalized its [Cross State Collaborative Math Modules](#) and has made them available on the department's website. Please feel free to use these resources or seek the guidance from the North Dakota Math Leadership Team.

Electronic Course Delivery – The 2016-2017 listing of [North Dakota Approved Electronic Course Delivery](#) providers is in the final stages of the state's procurement process. It is anticipated the 2016-2017 Approved Providers list will be available in early May.

If you have questions on any of these initiatives, please email [Ann Ellefson](#) or call (701) 328-2488.



North Dakota Teacher Mentoring Program Enrollment Available for 2016-2017

The Teacher Support System is ready and eager to help you support your brand-new-to-the-profession teachers! It is important to provide high-quality support to make sure students have the best learning experiences possible, as well as to increase the likelihood your new teachers will remain in your schools.

Here's how the program works—the principal selects the best person to mentor the first-year teacher, and we train and support that person as they work with the new teacher throughout the year. The program includes:

- ♦ one-on-one conference sessions with the new teacher and the mentor
- ♦ observation of the new teacher by the mentor
- ♦ recording of the new teacher
- ♦ opportunities for the new teacher to observe others

Mentors participate in initial and on-going training opportunities to gain mentoring skills and are paid a stipend of up to \$800 per semester. Expenses for the program are usually entirely paid for by the Teacher Support System. [Click here for more information about the teacher mentoring program.](#)

Training dates for new mentors for the 2016-2017 year are:

- ♦ August 4-5, 2016 in Minot
- ♦ August 8-9, 2016 in Fargo
- ♦ August 10-11, 2016 in Grand Forks
- ♦ August 15-16, 2016 in Bismarck
- ♦ September 8-9, 2016 in Fargo
- ♦ September 12-13, 2016 in Mandan

To enroll your first-year teacher and his/her mentor for the 2016-2017 school year, please go to <http://goo.gl/forms/Zjt3DZ9VSH>. Once we receive your enrollment, we will follow up to make sure everyone is ready to go for the school year. Please email [Laurie Stenehjem](#), North Dakota Teacher Support System Coordinator, or call (701) 328-9644 if you have any questions about the teacher mentoring program or how to make it work in your situation.

Driving: A Teenage Right of Passage, A Parent's Time to Get Involved



Getting a driver's license is a rite of passage in our society, another step toward independence and a reminder our children are moving closer to adulthood. Anxious times for parents? You bet!

How should parents handle this chapter of their teenager's coming of age? While there is no recipe, one sure component for the success for all is...parent involvement. Yes, helicopter parents, you can bring your helicopter out of its hangar, dust it off, and start your engines.

National studies in Driver Education have reported that parent involvement is not only key in your child's success in obtaining a driver's license, it can also save their lives. The most dangerous two years of life are between 16 and 17, and the reason for that is driving. Among this age group, death in motor vehicle accidents surpasses suicide, cancer, and other types of accidents. Cars have gotten safer, roads have gotten safer, but teen drivers have not.

So what's a parent to do, especially one who knows teenagers are always one step ahead? The answer is...get involved. Supervise your children! Research has shown the more the parent is involved when a teen is learning to drive, the lower the chances are for a crash. This involvement includes asking questions, supervising them and giving them opportunities to drive on different types of roads under different conditions. Drive with your teen at every opportunity. When running errands, give your teen the keys and have them drive you where you need to go. While they are driving, stay focused on what they are doing. If you are not paying attention, chances are they are not driving as safely as you think they are. Let your child evaluate their driving skills and always provide feedback and guidance. To sum it up, teenage driving may be the rare outlier when it comes to parenting. As soon as you give your child the keys to the car, it may be time to pull the helicopter out of the hangar and follow them down the road for a spell.

This summer, schools across North Dakota will be offering state-funded Driver Education programs. Driver Education programs consist of a classroom section and a behind-the-wheel section. While the laws and policies in North Dakota do not mandate a parental component for Driver Education, many districts have involved parents in a variety of ways and on a number of levels.

The Association of National Stakeholders in Traffic Safety Education (ANSTSE) has assisted the North Dakota Department of Transportation in reviewing the laws and rules for Driver Education programs. The ANSTSE has written a report which includes recommendations on how North Dakota can better serve its youth and parents in driver education. One of the most highly recommended changes is to include a parental involvement component for all Driver Education programs in our state. The new rules with regard to parental involvement and other components of driver education programs have not yet gone into effect. But look for these changes in driver education as early as the fall of 2016.

For more information on state-funded Driver Education and Summer School programs, email [Gwyn Marback](mailto:Gwyn.Marback@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2295.

IEP Team Member

The NDDPI Office of Special Education has received a number of questions on who qualifies as a parent on the IEP team. The IDEA Sec 300.30(a) defines *Parent* as:

- 1) A biological or adoptive parent of a child;
- 2) A foster parent, unless State law, regulations, or contractual obligations with a State or local entity prohibit a foster parent from acting as a parent;
- 3) A guardian generally authorized to act as the child's parent, or authorized to make educational decisions for the child (but not the state if the child is a ward of the state);
- 4) An individual acting in the place of a biological or adoptive parent (including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative) with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare; or
- 5) A surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with Sec. 300.519 or section 639(a) (5) of the Act.

The IEP process serves as a communication vehicle between parents and school personnel. It enables them, *as equal participants*, to make joint, informed decisions regarding:

- ♦ the child's needs and appropriate goals;
- ♦ the extent to which the child will be involved in the general curriculum and participate in the general education environment and in statewide and districtwide assessments; and
- ♦ the services needed to support that involvement and participation and to achieve agreed-upon goals.

If you have questions, please contact the NDDPI Office of Special Education at (701) 328-2277.

Autism Prevalence Stable, But Varies Widely Among Communities and Groups

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated **1 in 68** eight-year-olds have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder—this is the same prevalence rate when compared to data collected four years ago. While the CDC says it's too soon to say if this report reflects a plateau in autism diagnoses, the researchers saw wide disparities among the sites they monitor. For example, in parts of New Jersey, rates were 1 in 41, while in parts of South Carolina, 1 in 81 children were diagnosed with autism.

When researchers look only at health records, they note a much lower rate of autism (1 in 93) than those sites that allow researchers to examine both health and educational records (1 in 58). This suggests that schools play a very important role in identifying children with autism and providing effective strategies for treatment.

White children were more likely to be identified with autism (1.2 times more likely) than black or Hispanic children. Black children were more likely to be identified with autism (1.3 times more likely) than Hispanic children. Boys were 4.5 times more likely to be identified with autism spectrum disorder than girls.

“What we know for sure is that there are many children living with autism who need services and support, now, and as they grow into adolescence and adulthood,” states Dr. Stuart Shapira, the chief medical officer for the CDC.

North Dakota Child Count identified **1031** children, ages 3-21, diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder during 2015. This reflects a **9.4%** increase from last year's numbers.

Title I Schoolwide Reminders

2015-2016 SCHOOLWIDE PLANNING YEAR SCHOOLS:

- ♦ Mid-Year Review Feedback Memo outlines draft of schoolwide plan in ASSIST
- ♦ Continue schoolwide planning team meetings and share information with all staff
- ♦ Complete comprehensive needs assessment process (diagnostics in ASSIST)
- ♦ Complete goals and plans in ASSIST
- ♦ Document required schoolwide components (Schoolwide Assurances in ASSIST)
- ♦ Upload attachments as documentation of Title I Schoolwide Assurances in ASSIST
- ♦ Participate in professional development and/or study groups
- ♦ Ensure ALL paraprofessional instructional staff are highly qualified as documented through a Title I Paraprofessional Certificate of Completion
- ♦ Review schoolwide training materials, reminder memos, and website for resources
- ♦ Schedule and document parental involvement training opportunities

CURRENT SCHOOLWIDE SCHOOLS:

- ♦ Complete documentation for comprehensive needs assessment
- ♦ Identify and document goals/objectives
- ♦ Conduct regularly scheduled schoolwide planning team meetings
- ♦ Update information in selected online tool (NDMILE or ASSIST)
- ♦ Update schoolwide plan required components with supporting documentation
- ♦ Participate in professional development and/or study groups
- ♦ Review schoolwide training materials, reminder memos, and website for resources
- ♦ Schedule and document parental involvement training opportunities
- ♦ Ensure plan is on the right track and updated for the 2015-2016 school year
- ♦ Schedule and prepare Schoolwide Annual Review
- ♦ Assess the Parental Involvement Component



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**Save the
Date!**

2016 Introduction to Schoolwide Planning Training Session

August 11 , 2016

**Brynhild Haugland Room
State Capitol Building in Bismarck, ND**

[Information will be posted as it becomes available](#)

2016 Reading Summer Institute

Superheroes Teach Reading!

Presenter: Melissa Hiltner

Date: June 21-22, 2016

Cost: \$85

Online Registration:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016Reading



Description: This two-day reading institute will focus on the power to help our students who may struggle with reading, along with gaining strategies that are aligned to the North Dakota State Standards in English language arts. We will spend time looking at “Power Standards” and how they can help activate knowledge of struggling readers in the classroom and give them the skills they need to succeed. Focus will be given specifically on effective vocabulary instruction with numerous samples and ideas to take back directly into your classroom. Participants will also share and collaborate with other reading teachers across the state in order to learn and plan for effective reading instruction. Participants will receive an array of ideas for formative assessments in reading and learn the importance of having students track their own progress through data folders.

This institute will also touch on Carol Dweck’s theory of the growth mindset that teaches students that “struggling is a normal part of the learning process for all of us.” Strategies and resources will be shared that reading teachers will be able to take back to their classrooms and begin using on the very first day of school!

Location for Summer Institutes:

Baymont Inn & Suites
2611 Old Red Trail, Mandan, ND
(701) 663-7401

Credit: An active credit registration link will be provided to registered participants in mid-May.

2016 Math Summer Institute

Connecting Student Engagement, North Dakota State Standards Expectations, and Effective Teaching Practices in Mathematics

Presenter: Lori Gibson

Date: June 13-14, 2016

Cost: \$120



Online Registration:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016Math

Description: Because of the implementation of the North Dakota State Standards, there is an increased emphasis on deepening the understanding of flexibility with numbers and operations. Participants will become more familiar with how this looks, feels, and sounds as they engage in a variety of activities both as learners and as teachers reflecting on the learning process.

If my student is not meeting grade level expectations in mathematics, how can I build on his/her current understanding in order to close the gap? How can we engage students in learning and practicing basic facts so it does not seem like a “drill and kill” session? What is the suggested learning progression of number and operations in grades K-8? What questions can we ask our students to deepen their understanding? These questions and more will be addressed during this two-day summer institute.

Join us as we practice basic skills with number cubes, number cards, paperclips, movement, array cards, and much more! Participants will leave with materials, suggested websites, and a “Number Talks” resource in order to implement these practical activities into their classrooms immediately.

If you have any questions regarding the Summer Institutes, please email [Patty Carmichael](mailto:PattyCarmichael@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-3264.

ELL Update

Continuous

- ◆ Progress Monitoring
 - Meet with teachers and paraprofessionals on students' progress and students' or teachers' needs
- ◆ New Student Registration
 - Include Home Language Survey in registration
- ◆ Monitored student data review (1 or 2 yr. exited students)
 - Review monitored student files with team; copy to parents and in cumulative folder

Title III Allocations – 2016-2017 School Year

- ◆ Intent to apply instructions will be coming soon

ACCESS Results

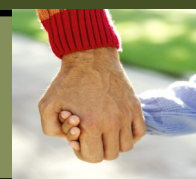
- ◆ Review student results
- ◆ Complete non-participation report (instructions will be emailed)
- ◆ Exiting Students (students meeting exit requirements):
 - The NDDPI will enter exit date
 - Send out parent notification
 - Prepare folder for monitor (2 years)
- ◆ Non-Exiting Students
 - Gather list of students for ILPs
 - Communicate parent/teacher reports



◆ Plan for ELL Professional Development

- New ELL Teacher Training – September 2016 (specific date TBD)
- NDDPI Fall Educators Conference – October 12-14, 2016
- Dakota TESL Conference – November 9-10, 2016
- BootCamp – TBD
- WIDA Standards Training – TBD

Parent Involvement Resources



The Office of Indian/Multicultural Education within NDDPI's Division of Student Support & Innovation is developing monthly communication resources for schools to disseminate to parents. Research has shown that students do better in school when their parent/guardian is actively involved. A monthly, one-page resource template is available at www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/IME/IndianEducation/parentinvolvement/ to assist schools in encouraging parent/guardian involvement. This template is customizable to meet school needs.

Each month, the resource includes ideas and opportunities that could be shared with parents. The resources are certainly not inclusive and staff is encouraged to add their own creative ideas and activities related to North Dakota schools and districts.



Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy through Art ND Heritage Center, June 13-17, 2016

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA), and North Dakota Humanities Council (NDHC) are collaboratively hosting the Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy Through Art training. Beth Olshansky, Director of the Center for the Advancement of Art-Based Literacy at the University of New Hampshire in Durham and author of *The Power of Pictures: Creating Pathways to Literacy Through Art* will facilitate the training.

**Registration is
Now Full!**

During this training, participants will learn to combine creativity, rigor, and deep thinking through a progression of art-and-literature-based mini-lessons designed to provide students with an experiential understanding of the key elements of writing including: sense of setting, character and plot development (problem and solution), creating an ending, and use of descriptive words.

The NDDPI along with its partners NDCA and NDHC will offer an enriched learning opportunity for educators to participate in a five-day training and will cover the cost for registration, lunch, and materials.

Daily Schedule

Registration will begin at 8:00 am each day, and the training runs from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Housing

Reserved housing is available through Bismarck State College (BSC) at a rate of \$30 for a single room per night and \$25 for a double room per night. If you intend to take advantage of the housing at BSC, you were required to indicate this on the registration form, otherwise you are free to arrange your own housing/hotel accommodations.

Graduate Credit

Two graduate credits are available for \$100 through University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, and Minot State University.

Registration

Registration for this training is now full. If you would like to be placed on our waiting list, please go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSRSZSN. If space becomes available, you will be contacted two weeks prior to the training start date.

Additional information on the training can be found at www.nd.gov/dpi/events/PicturingWriting/ on the NDDPI website. If you have registration questions, please email [Jill Frohlich](mailto:Jill.Frohlich@nd.gov) from the NDDPI or call (701) 328-2254. If you have questions regarding the training, please email [Rebecca Engelman](mailto:Rebecca.Engelman@nd.gov) from the NDCA or call (701) 328-7593.

6TH ANNUAL NORTH DAKOTA RTI/MTSS CONFERENCE

NDMTSS: A Framework for Success

June 6-8, 2016 | Holiday Inn, Fargo

Mark your calendar today!

The 6th Annual RTI/MTSS Conference is back again this summer, June 6-8, at the Fargo Holiday Inn bringing you more experts from the field along with local and state examples of what this framework could look like in your schools.

North Dakota Multi-Tiered System of Supports (NDMTSS) is a framework that provides all students with the best opportunities to succeed academically and behaviorally in school. NDMTSS focuses on providing high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student need, monitoring progress frequently to make decisions about change in instruction or goals. Data are used to allocate resources to improve student learning and support staff implementation of effective practices.

Essential Components

NDMTSS focuses on five essential components: Assessments; Data-Based Decision Making; Multi-Level Instruction; Infrastructure and Support Mechanisms; and Fidelity and Evaluation.

Attend the 2016 conference to learn more!

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

JUNE 6-8, 2016
WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY
NDMTSS CONFERENCE

Full 3-Day Conference Monday, June 6 - Wednesday, June 8 — Daily breakfast & lunch included

\$275 April 1-30
\$320 May 1-31

Start w/ Session ID 33649

2-Day Conference Tuesday, June 7 - Wednesday, June 8 — Daily breakfast & lunch included

\$195 April 1-30
\$220 May 1-31

Start w/ Session ID 33658

1-Day Conference Monday, June 6, 2016 — Daily breakfast & lunch included

\$100 April 1-30
\$115 May 1-31

Start w/ Session ID 33647

*CHAMPS Book add-on option: During registration there will be a CHAMPS Training registration option that will include the book cost in your registration fee. We are able to receive a discounted rate of \$40.00. This option and offer are only good if you register prior to May 24. After May 24, this option and offer will no longer be available.

Registration guaranteed with payment only.

Registration Deadline MAY 31ST

Contact Darlene Pullen at darlene.pullen@mndec.com or 701-858-4702

Or Erika Bartunek at erika@ndseec.com or 701-446-3170

Want more info? Visit www.ndrti.com for updates including keynote speakers, breakout sessions and more!

Questions? Contact Darlene Pullen (701-858-4702 | darlene.pullen@mndec.com) or Sadie Lech (701-952-3220 | lechs@ndseec.com)



The University of Mary invites you,
high school sophomores and juniors,
to learn how to *think creatively & collaborate innovatively.*

JUNE 5-8, 2016

University of Mary Campus (Bismarck)
Register by May 15 at
umary.edu/businesschallenge
or 701-355-8029

Students will stay overnight in University of Mary residence halls.
\$99 registration fee will include 3 nights lodging and meals.

At the 2016 University of Mary Business Challenge June 5-8, you will have the opportunity to:

- Learn from some of the state's most successful business leaders
- Challenge your creativity in hands-on workshops that develop your entrepreneurial and teamwork skills
- Participate in a TEDx Salon
- Tour innovative businesses in Bismarck-Mandan
- Engage in wonderful community service activities



business challenge



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Register Now
July 12-15, 2016

www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/AS/NMSI/



NATIONAL
MATH + SCIENCE
INITIATIVE

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Magic City Campus High School–Minot, ND

Sponsored by the
Division of Student Support & Innovation

Two credits offered by University of Mary

21st Century Community Learning Centers SUMMER CONFERENCE

August 2-3, 2016

Avalon West, Fargo

Out-of-school-time providers, this is for you! Attend and experience a variety of professional learning opportunities to enhance quality in afterschool.

From inspirational speakers to STEAM learning to staff retention this conference offers learning experiences for coordinators, teachers, leaders and aides.

Watch for
INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
updates on www.ndseec.com.



Northern Plains

Law Conference on
Students with Disabilities



Save the Dates!

North
Dakota

Montana

South
Dakota

October 4-5, 2016
Bismarck, ND

Bismarck Civic Center
315 South 5th Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504

October 3, 2016

A Pre-Conference will be held for
School Attorneys, Special Education
Directors and School Administrators

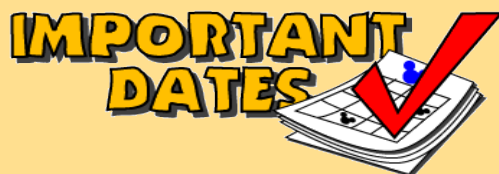
Registration will open in March.

2016 NDDPI Fall Educators Conference

The Conference is a GO!

It is with great pleasure that we announce the NDDPI will once again be offering high quality professional development for our North Dakota educators at the

2016 NDDPI Fall Educators Conference



Conference Dates:
October 12-14, 2016

Conference Location:
Bismarck Event Center



Connect **2** More

*Other newsletters published by
NDDPI:*

[North Dakota AFTERSCHOOL Update](#)

21st Century Community Learning Centers

[Research/Resources Report](#)

Research and resources on educational issues relevant to North Dakota schools

[STEAM Newsletter](#)

Title II B—Math Science Partnership

[ND ExcELLing Educator](#)

Title III—English Language Learner programs

[North Dakota Homeless Education Program](#)

Updates on McKinney-Vento and other homeless information

[ConnectED](#)

NDDPI Quarterly Newsletter

[Directions Newsletter](#)

[Roundup Newsletter](#)

[Administrative Updates](#)

Child Nutrition & Food Distribution

[Flickertail Newsletter](#)

[Discovery Newsletter](#)

North Dakota State Library

Upcoming Events

Additional information regarding NDDPI-sponsored events is available at www.nd.gov/dpi/events/

June 2016	<p><u>Math Summer Institute</u> June 13-14, 2016 in Mandan, ND</p> <p><u>Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy Through Art</u> June 13-17, 2016 in Bismarck, ND</p> <p><u>Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR) Training</u> June 20-21, 2016 in Bismarck, ND</p> <p><u>Reading Summer Institute</u> June 21-22, 2016 in Mandan, ND</p> <p><u>Prevent-Teach-Reinforce (PTR) Training</u> June 23-24, 2016 in Fargo, ND</p>
July 2016	<p><u>Laying the Foundation Training</u> July 12-15, 2016 in Minot, ND</p> <p><u>3rd Annual North Dakota Indian Education Summit</u> July 12-13, 2016 in Bismarck, ND</p>
August 2016	<p><u>21st CCLC Summer Conference</u> August 2-3, 2016 in Fargo, ND</p> <p><u>Annual School Administrators Workshop</u> August 3-5, 2016 in Bismarck, ND</p> <p><u>2016 Introduction to Schoolwide Training</u> August 11, 2016 in Bismarck, ND</p>
October 2016	<p><u>Northern Plains Law Conference on Students with Disabilities</u> October 3-5, 2016 in Bismarck, ND</p> <p><u>NDDPI Fall Educators Conference</u> October 12-14, 2016 in Bismarck, ND</p>



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www.nd.gov/dpi

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